

REMARKS

I. 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Castaldo, U.S. Patent 3,239,658 in view of Ylla, U.S. Patent 4,972,304. Claims 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Castaldo, U.S. Patent 3,239,658 in view of Branaugh et al. U.S. Patent 6,582,093, and Ylla, U.S. Patent 4,972,304.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant claims a purse with an illuminating device. The purse has a main storage area and a clasp member having a first end coupled to one end of the main storage area and a second end coupled to a second end of the main storage area for opening and closing the main storage area. The lighting device has a power supply, and a light element coupled to the power supply. A housing holds the power supply and light element. The housing located in an interior compartment of the main storage area. The interior compartment having an opening for accessing the housing, the opening being opened and closed by a zipper. A magnetic switch is coupled to the clasp member and automatically causes the lighting device to activate when the clasp member is opened. Applicant's claimed invention places the power supply and the light element inside an interior compartment formed in the purse. No plastic housing or base member is required for

holding and mounting the lighting circuit. This simplifies the lighting circuit and reduces the weight of the lighting circuit.

In contrast, all of the cited references disclose the use of a plastic housing or a base member for holding and mounting the lighting circuit. Castaldo discloses that a container is positioned between an inside surface of the material of the body 11 and the outside of the lining 18.... An opening is made in the lining for the light bulb 20 (See Column 2, lines 24-31). Castaldo requires the use of a container to house the lighting circuit. Furthermore, nowhere in Castaldo is it disclosed or anticipated that a compartment is formed to hold the housing and that a zipper is used to access the compartment. In fact, Castaldo doesn't disclose any way to access the container in the purse.

The Examiner contends that Ylla discloses an interior compartment having an opening to access the lighting element. Ylla discloses a lighting circuit which has a base unit for holding and mounting the lighting circuit. The base unit is then coupled to an interior of the purse in order to mount the lighting circuit. Ylla requires the use of the base unit for holding and mounting the lighting circuit.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above arguments overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Such action is earnestly solicited.

II. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submit that Applicant's claimed invention is deserving of patent protection because it describes a useful and functioning apparatus which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment Letter, in view of the Remarks offered in conjunction therewith, are fully responsive to all aspects of the objections and rejections tendered by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that he has persuasively demonstrated that the above-identified Patent Application, including Claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

If the foregoing does not place the case in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned for purposes of a telephone interview.

If there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from our Deposit Account NO. 23-0830.

Respectfully submitted,



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